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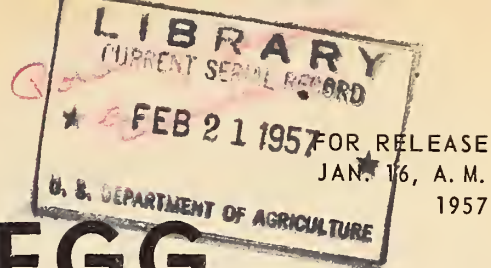
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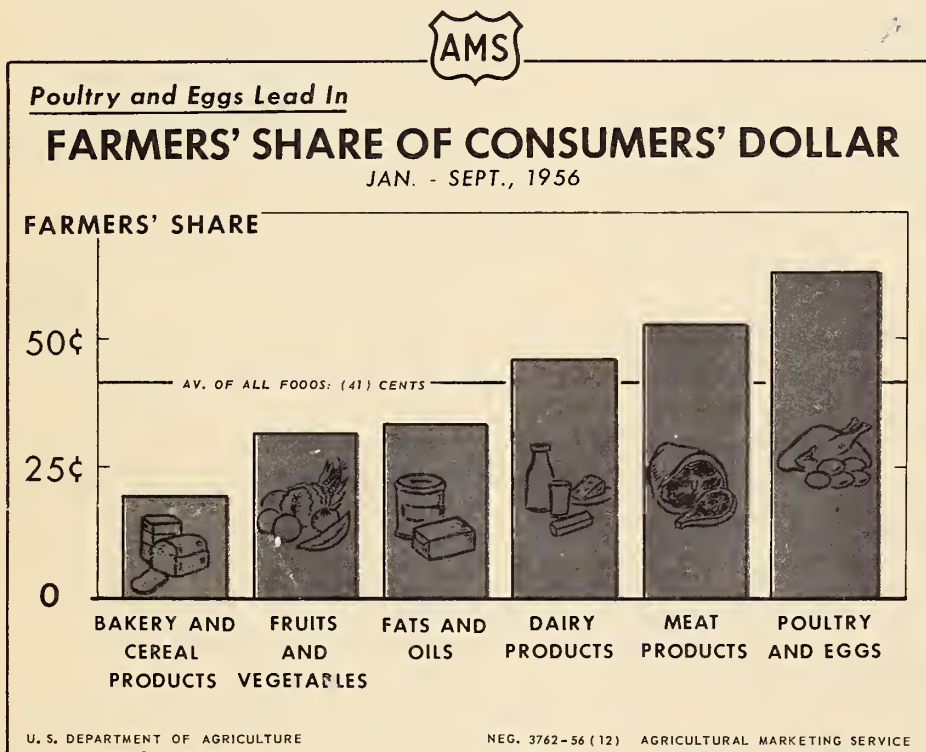
The

POULTRY and EGG SITUATION

PES - 187



In this issue:
Index, January
to December 1956



Producers of poultry and eggs receive more of the consumers' dollar than do the farm producers in other major commodity groups. Changes in wholesale and retail prices of eggs and

poultry are generally more directly transmitted to the farm level than are corresponding changes in consumer prices of foods which typically are re-tailed in highly processed forms.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

THE POULTRY AND EGG SITUATION AT A GLANCE

Item	Unit	Month or date	Average 1945-54	1955	1956	Month or date	Average 1945-54	1955	1956	Comments on current situation
EGGS										
Farm production	Mil. doz.	Nov.	326.4	389.8	403.5	Dec.	368.4	414.7	436.8	Record highs for November and December.
Average number of layers on farms	Millions	Nov.	359.5	331.2	331.6	Dec.	370.5	333.6	335.8	
Rate of lay per layer	Eggs	Nov.	12.0	14.1	14.6	Dec.	12.0	14.9	15.6	
Apparent disappearance, shell eggs per civilian ..	Eggs	Oct.	28.4	28.9	4/28.6	Nov.	28.3	29.5	4/28.9	
Frozen egg production ..	Mil. lb.	Oct.	4.4	4.1	8.7	Nov.	3.2	3.8	5.6	
Dried egg production ...	Mil. lb.	Oct.	1.2	1.1	1.2	Nov.	1.0	0.7	1.0	
Price received by farmers	Ct. per doz.	Nov.	49.1	43.4	37.2	Dec.	48.4	47.1	37.1	Prices for last two months below springtime average.
Price received by farmers as a percentage of parity	Percent	Nov.	85	83	70	Dec.	84	93	72	
Retail price (AMS)	Ct. per doz.	Oct.	70.7	64.1	59.5	Nov.	68.8	62.4	57.5	
Egg-feed price ratio ...	Lb. feed	Nov.	13.2	12.9	10.5	Dec.	12.9	13.9	10.4	Only ratios in November and December 1954 (9.0 and 8.7 respectively) have been lower.
Stocks:										
Shell	Thous. cases	Nov. 1	1,221	0.8	0.6	Dec. 1	470	0.3	0.5	
Frozen	Mil. lb.	Nov. 1	133.2	127.8	131.5	Dec. 1	106.4	101.4	109.6	
Chicks hatched by commercial hatcheries	Millions	Oct.	66.4	110.0	120.8	Nov.	67.7	111.4	120.6	
Pullets not yet of laying age on farms	Millions	Dec. 1	55.1	35.0	31.1	Jan. 1	31.9	27.3	26.8	
Farm price of poultry ration	Dol. per cwt.	Nov.	3.75	3.36	3.54	Dec.	3.80	3.38	3.56	
POULTRY										
Price received by farmers for chickens, live										
Broilers	Ct. per lb.	Nov.	28.4	21.2	17.1	Dec.	27.5	19.4	16.9	December price lowest monthly
Farm chickens	Ct. per lb.	Nov.	22.7	17.5	13.0	Dec.	23.4	17.9	13.5	average price since December
All chickens	Ct. per lb.	Nov.	24.9	19.8	15.7	Dec.	25.3	19.0	16.0	1940.
Price received by farmers for all chickens as a percentage of parity ..	Percent	Nov.	89	69	54	Dec.	88	66	55	
Retail price of broilers and fryers, dressed (AMS)	Ct. per lb.	Oct.	53.1	49.9	44.5	Nov.	52.4	48.3	43.5	
Price received by farmers for turkeys, live	Ct. per lb.	Nov.	35.2	29.8	26.0	Dec.	36.7	30.5	27.7	
Stocks:										
Poultry, excluding turkeys	Mil. lb.	Nov. 1	156.5	114.2	165.2	Dec. 1	173.8	130.7	172.9	
Turkeys	Mil. lb.	Nov. 1	87.1	144.3	196.5	Dec. 1	109.2	129.0	193.3	Stocks for these two months are record high.
Broiler-feed price ratio	Lb. feed	Nov.	---	4.4	3.5	Dec.	---	4.1	3.4	
Turkey-feed price ratio	Lb. feed	Nov.	9.5	8.9	7.3	Dec.	9.8	9.0	7.8	
Average weekly placement of chicks in 22 important States	Millions	Nov.	---	19.4	21.3	Dec.	---	20.5	21.0	

1/ Except where data are for January, the average is for 1946-55.

2/ Except where data are for January, the year is 1956.

3/ Except where data are for January, the year is 1957.

4/ Estimated.

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 T H E P O U L T R Y A N D E G G S I T U A T I O N
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Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, January 10, 1957

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SUMMARY

Production of eggs is likely to continue higher and prices to farmers lower in the next few months than in the same period a year earlier. In the last 4 months of 1956, production averaged 4 percent above the same months of 1955, mainly because of a 3 percent increase in the rate of lay per layer. The number of layers on hand January 1 was up 1½ percent from a year earlier. Prices to farmers for eggs averaged 37.1 cents per dozen in mid-December, 10 cents below the same time in 1955.

The number of chickens raised for laying flock replacement in 1957 probably will be less than in 1956. However, the cut may not be as great as might be expected from the reduction in prices. The number of chickens raised now seem less affected by short-time changes in the profits of egg production. Moreover, the trend toward increased production per bird and the tendency of producers to keep layers longer than formerly will tend to maintain production.

Broiler marketings in January will be from weekly placements averaging about 4 percent smaller than the placements which provided December marketings. The decline in supplies together with a seasonal decline in marketings of turkeys have already resulted in a slight increase in broiler prices over the mid-December average of 16.9 cents per pound to farmers. However, prospective supplies of broilers for January continue above a year earlier, and weekly placements indicate that supplies in February and March will be at a higher rate than those in January.

Turkey prices rose after Thanksgiving but had lost part of the rise by the end of 1956. The mid-December price to farmers averaged 27.7 cents per pound, compared with 30.5 cents a year earlier. In the early months of 1956, prices for dressed turkeys rose but an increase is not in sight this year--supplies in storage during the past two months were at record levels, 36 and 50 percent above a year earlier, and the number of turkeys remaining on farms (i. e., poult hatchings late in 1956) is well above last year. A survey of farmers' intentions to raise turkeys in 1957 is to be released January 16.

Egg Prices Continue
Below Year Ago

For September-December the U. S. average egg price was 37.8 cents per dozen, compared with 44.3 cents a year earlier. Egg prices at the end of 1956 and in the first week or ten days of 1957 continued lower than a year earlier --the U. S. average price received by farmers in mid-December was 10 cents lower than in mid-December 1955 when it was the highest of the year, and slightly lower than a month earlier. During the September-December 1956 period the U. S. average egg-feed price ratio was 10.6 pounds (of poultry ration that could be bought with the value of a dozen eggs) in 1956, contrasted with 13.0 pounds in 1955 and an average of 12.1 pounds in the period 1951-55.

Egg production in August-December 1956, compared with the same 1955 period; increased almost 5 percent (3 million cases). The effect of the larger production on price was partially offset by several factors, including: the 1.8 percent increase in population; and a lower level of cold storage stocks of both shell and frozen egg this summer than last, with August 1, 1956 holdings of 1.4 million cases, smaller than a year earlier.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture bought nearly 600,000 cases of medium size eggs between September 29 and December 6, (table 4), principally for delivery to school lunches. Also, a second program involving U. S. financial arrangements permitted the government of Spain to buy 170,000 cases of medium size eggs this fall for export to that country. A similiar, though smaller, Spanish program in 1955 probably influenced the egg price rise late in that year; effects of the rise carried over into early 1956.

Egg prices in early January continued about 10 cents below the average of 46.6 cents per dozen received in mid-January 1956. Since production is increasing seasonally, prices in February and March are likely to remain below a year earlier when the mid-month averages to farmers were about 40 cents.

1956 Egg Production Record
Large: Continued High
in Coming Months

Egg production was record large in each month from July through November 1956. December output which was 5 percent larger than the preceding December was a record high for the month.

The 338 million layers on hand January 1 were up $1\frac{1}{2}$ percent from a year earlier and the January 1 rate of lay per 100 birds was 6 percent above last year.

In recent years, monthly egg outputs for the period January through May typically have not been record highs as they have been in the last half of each recent year (table 5), although they have been fully adequate to meet requirements.

Egg production on farms in 1956 was 169 million cases, 2 percent larger than the previous record in the preceding year. Practically all increase occurred in the last six months of the year (table 3).

Numbers of layers now are slightly larger than a year ago. If the reduction in numbers of layers in the four to six months following the December-January peak also follows the consistent pattern set in past years, the laying flock almost to mid-1957 will be very close to the size of the flock in the same 1956 period. January and February rates of lay will be above last year if past trends are repeated, resulting in slightly larger daily rates of egg production than in 1956. (January 1, for which figures are already available, shows 8 percent more eggs produced than a year earlier.) For a few months after late March, rates of lay are almost stable from year to year. Therefore, 1957 egg production from late March through May could be above the same period in 1956.

Storage Demand, Springtime

Hatch: Relation to Prospective

Egg Prices

Although 1957 egg production and supply from mid-March through May could exceed 1956, demand for breaking and for storage in the shell may be weaker because of the unfavorable experience of breakers and storers in 1956. Possible sharp changes from year to year in total diversion of eggs to breaking and storage probably are more important influences upon springtime prices than demand for current consumption, except in times of sharp changes in employment and consumer incomes, notwithstanding the fact that current use in the spring exceeds diversion to storage.

Springtime storage in 1956 was not profitable for breakers or storers of shell eggs. December prices for frozen mixed whole egg, frozen albumen, and sugared and salted yolks all were lower than March and April prices. December quotations for plain frozen yolks were 3 to 4 cents higher than during the spring, but this increase is no more than adequate to cover storage, interest, and other costs, including risk.

Dealers in frozen egg products are faced by larger carry-over stocks for early 1957 than at the same time in 1956 when prices failed to rise. On December 1, U. S. holdings of all forms of frozen egg were 110 million pounds, 8 million more than a year earlier--equivalent to 6 percent of the net increase in stocks of frozen egg from March 1 to August 1, 1956.

Prices for Chicago future contracts declined steadily from the spring of 1956. Standard contracts in Chicago are for delivery of eggs, from cold storage, in months when such eggs normally are taken from storage. Contract prices during the spring reflect costs of eggs put into storage at that time, plus anticipated carrying charges. Prices during the fall ordinarily reflect the value of eggs then available from storage. During March and April 1956, contracts for September, October, and November delivery sold in the range of about 41.50-44.50 cents per dozen (daily closes). At maturity, the September contract closed at 34.65 cents per dozen, October at 31.25, and November at 29.40 cents.

Stocks of shell egg in storage also exceed a year ago. Unlike frozen egg, however, shell eggs seriously decline in quality after extended storage, and spring-stored eggs cannot be kept into a second season. Therefore, carried over shell eggs do not burden the spring time market supply as the case may be for frozen egg. On December 1, 1956, there were 522 thousand cases of eggs in storage, compared with 333 thousand cases a year earlier. Recent holdings included an unknown quantity of eggs earmarked for but not yet exported to Spain under that government's purchase program.

The unfavorable financial outcome of the 1956 storage operations probably will reduce diversion to storage this year unless a significant decline occurs in the 1957 hatchings of replacement chicks. The decline would have to be 7 or 8 percent or perhaps even more. A smaller decline would not assure a cut in fall egg production, since farmers could maintain output by reducing the rate of culling, using less rigid standards for selecting pullets among the chickens raised, and by increasing the rate of lay per bird.

On December 1, hatcheries reported 12 percent fewer replacement-type eggs in incubators than a year earlier. In California, settings of light-breed eggs in the last 3 weeks of December were 9 percent below a year earlier. However, these declines are not necessarily indicative of the season as a whole.

A significant decline in hatchings would favor a usual, or larger than usual, seasonal egg price increase in 1957 and encourage the storage of shell eggs during the spring. Consequently, breakers and freezers would also be encouraged, because relatively high prices for shell eggs would discourage out-of-season breaking which in 1956 cut into the opportunity to sell spring-packed product. In 1956, about 95 million pounds of liquid egg--2.5 million cases--were broken commercially in July-November, compared with 74 million pounds--1.9 million cases--in 1955.

Because per capita disappearance of eggs through consumer channels is stable during the spring, despite considerable year-to-year changes in price (table 3), storage demand probably influences springtime egg prices more than the quantity stored would indicate. For this reason, a substantial cut-back in the number of chickens to be raised would influence egg prices earlier than the time when pullets of this spring's hatch come into lay.

The increasing specialization of egg production, a factor which has tended to maintain the number of chickens raised, was discussed in the November 15 issue of The Poultry and Egg Situation.

Broiler Prices Low at Year End;
Slight Increases Expected,
But Output to Continue Large

Broiler prices in early December were about at the low of 1956; prices in several areas were quoted as low as 13 cents per pound at the farm. In mid-December the U. S. average farmer's price was 16.9 cents per pound, compared with 17.1 cents a month earlier and 19.4 cents a year earlier.

November and December broiler prices usually are among the lowest of the year, partly because of competition from turkeys during the holidays. Post-holiday demand for chickens may improve, and broiler prices may rise somewhat. Although the volume of production will continue about 10 percent larger than a year earlier, weekly placements indicate that supplies in January will be about 4 percent smaller than in December. February marketings will be from weekly placements which were about equal to the placements resulting in December marketings. However, since the peak turkey marketing season has passed, prices in February may exceed December levels.

Except for egg settings in the period December 2-8, which were 11 percent below a year earlier, and correspondingly reduced hatchings in the week of December 22-28, settings and hatchings in each week of 1956 were above 1955. Since then, hatching operations increased to levels 8 and 14 percent above a year earlier. It is reasonable to believe that the cut was an attempt to reduce hatchings during the Christmas week, rather than a reversal of the uptrend in broiler output.

The continued record large production for each of the 12 most recent months in the face of prices below a year ago probably can be attributed, in part, to the contractual-type of financing available to broilermen, particularly when coupled with vertical integration.

Articles in recent issues of poultry trade magazines further attempt to explain the situation by citing that for some months prior to mid-September 1955, and again since October 1, contractors have had a stop-loss broiler insurance available to them. According to one published version, 150 million broilers were covered by the plan in mid-September, when an adverse Arkansas ruling caused suspension of further underwriting. With revisions, the insurance was resumed in October.

The insurance plan, in effect, apparently covers the contractor against 80 percent of potential out-of-pocket loss on each insured flock of broilers. The premium for this coverage is reported to have been $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents per chick.

Turkey Prices Rise after
Thanksgiving; Record
Storage Stocks

Turkey prices rose in the two or three weeks after Thanksgiving, but declined somewhat during Christmas time and the week following. The mid-December U. S. average price received by farmers was 27.7 cents per pound, 1.7 cents higher than a month earlier, but 2.8 cents below a year earlier. In the Central Valley of California on November 20, heavy toms over 29 pounds (live) were up to $26\frac{1}{2}$ cents per pound, heavy-type hens 25- $25\frac{1}{2}$ cents, and fryer-type turkeys $24\frac{1}{2}$ cents. By December 7 toms and hens had risen to 29 and 26 cents, respectively, and fryers to 27 cents. At Christmas time, toms and hens were about unchanged and fryer-type turkeys had declined slightly.

The price increase after Thanksgiving raised wholesale prices of frozen turkeys to a higher level than U. S. Department of Agriculture had paid under its purchase program. The program was terminated at the end of November after 27 million pounds $\frac{1}{4}$ of frozen eviscerated turkeys had been bought. USDA on December 4 offered to excuse vendors from making delivery on contracted but as yet undelivered sales, at vendors option. The purchased turkeys were intended for School Lunches and similar outlets.

The record large crop of 76 million birds, apparently, was slaughtered somewhat earlier than the 1955 crop, for weekly slaughter in the period immediately preceding mid-November averaged above 1955 by 20 percent or more and December slaughter was about 5 percent above a year earlier. Retail prices for ready-to-cook turkeys in East Coast chain stores were typically in the mid-forties, about 8 cents per pound below 1955. This fully reflected the decline from the previous year in farm and wholesale prices.

Thanksgiving prices, as usual, did not reflect the "normal" retail markup applied during most of the year--many retailers use turkeys as a "leader" during the holiday season. The price rise after Thanksgiving was sharper for toms than for hens and fryer-type turkeys.

Storage stocks of turkeys on December 1 totaled 193 million pounds, slightly below the 197 million-pound record of a month earlier. Since December 1, stocks in 35 important cities have followed the 1955 rate of decline in holdings, when they declined $3\frac{1}{4}$ million pounds. Such a decline in December 1955 would still leave January 1 stocks at the highest level ever attained, except for the two preceding months. Stocks on January 1, 1956, were 95 million pounds the preceding January high was in 1953, when 147 million pounds were in storage.

1 Contracts for 1.7 million pounds, included in this total, were cancelled at the beginning of December.

Farmers' intentions to raise turkeys will be surveyed in January by the U. S. Department of Agriculture which will release the report January 16. An October survey of farmers' intentions to keep breeder hens showed an intended increase, at that time, of 16 percent for heavy-breed hens and toms, and an intended decrease of 3 percent for light-breed birds. The October intentions may have been revised downward since the time of report, since widespread publicity has been given to those intentions and to the belief that a large increase in the production of heavy-breed turkeys would further reduce prices in the fall of 1957.

According to the Wall Street Journal of December 20, the 1956 turkey crop in the United Kingdom was a record of nearly 2.8 million birds compared with 1.6 million in 1955. With this increase in supply, retail prices dropped from the U. S. equivalent of 70 to 80 cents per pound in late 1955 to 45 to 50 cents at the holiday season in 1956.

Index of Special Articles, Features, and Selected Items,
Poultry and Egg Situation, 1956*

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* The last preceding index, covering 1955, was published in the January-February 1956 issue.

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Table 1.- Egg prices, selected dates, 1956, with comparisons

Item	1955-56				1956-57			
	Oct. 15:	Nov. 15:	Dec. 15:	Jan. 13:	Feb. 15:	Oct. 15:	Nov. 15:	Dec. 14: Jan. 7
U. S. average price received by farmers, per dozen	42.9	43.4	47.1	46.6	40.2	38.1	37.2	36.8
Iowa prices received by farmers, per dozen 1/:								
Grade A Large	38-40	40-43	40-43	37-39	33-34	36-37	30-33	23-24
Grade A Medium	28-30	29-30	35-38	34-37	29-31	22-23	20-23	20
New York, wholesale prices								
Midwestern, mixed colors, per dozen:								
Fancy heavy-weights	50-51 1/2	50-52 1/2	51-52 1/2	48-50	42 1/2-43 1/2	46 1/2-47 1/2	42-44	32 1/2-34
Extras 1, medium	40-41	41-42	47-48 1/2	47-48	41-41 1/2	30-31	29 1/2-30	29-30
Nearby whites, per dozen:								
Extra fancy, heavy-weights	55-55 1/2	53-55 1/2	55-57	53-55	43-44 1/2	48 1/2-50 1/2	46-48	33 1/2-35
Medium	40-41	47-48	51-52 1/2	50-52	42-42 1/2	32 1/2-33 1/2	31-32	29-30
Small (pullets)	32 1/2-33 1/2	35 1/2-36 1/2	44-44 1/2	46-47	---	26-27	25-26	28-29
Frozen egg, per pound 2/:								
Mixed whole egg, spring pack:	28-31	28-30	30 1/2-32	4/33 1/2-35	33-34	28 1/2-32	27-30	28-30
Yolk 3/	54-55	53-55	53-55	4/54-55	54-55	53-54	54-55	5/54-56
Albumen	22-25	21 1/2-24 1/2	24 1/2-25 1/2	4/26-28	27-29	18 1/2-23	16 1/2-21	5/16 1/2-18
Chicago								
Wholesale price, per dozen:								
Mixed colors, extras, large:	50-50 1/2	50 1/2-51	51-51 1/2	45 1/2-46	40-40 1/2	42 1/2-43	40-40 1/2	29 3/4-30
Medium	38-39	41-41 1/2	48-49	44-44 1/2	39-39 1/2	28-29	29 1/2-30	27 1/4
Future contracts:								
September delivery								
(closing price)								
San Francisco, wholesale price, per dozen:								
Grade A, Large	51 1/2-52 1/2	49 1/2-50 1/2	56 1/2-57 1/2	55 1/2-56 1/2	44 1/2-45 1/2	48-49	51-52	44-45
Grade A, Medium	45-45 1/2	41-41 1/2	56-56 1/2	53-53 1/2	41-41 1/2	41-42	44-45	42-43
	42.75	42.50A	43.60	45.50	44.30	39.15	39.35	38.85

1/ "Mostly, "except where otherwise stated: Friday of given week through February, 1955; thereafter, prices are for given dates. 2/ Carlots. Weekly price. 3/ Highest color quoted. 4/ Week ending Jan. 13. 5/ Week ending Jan. 4.

Table 2.--Eggs:- Farm egg production and first-of-month stocks and net movement of shell and frozen egg, United States, by months, January 1954 to date

Month	Shell eggs			Liquid or frozen egg					
	Egg production on farms	Net move-ment to storage (- = out)	Total stocks beginning of following month	As reported			Case equivalent		
				Commer-cial produc-tion of liquid egg	Net move-ment to storage of frozen egg	Total stocks, frozen egg, first of following month	Commer-cial produc-tion of liquid egg	Net move-ment to storage of frozen egg	Total stocks, frozen egg, first of following month
	Mil. cases	Mil. cases	Mil. cases	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. cases	Mil. cases	Mil. cases
1954									
Jan.	14.2	- 1/	0.1	30.0	-3.8	38.2	0.8	0.1	1.0
Feb.	13.9	.1	.1	47.8	3.4	41.6	1.2	.1	1.1
Mar.	16.4	.3	.4	93.0	50.3	91.9	2.4	1.3	2.4
Apr.	15.6	.3	.7	85.1	44.5	136.5	2.2	1.2	3.5
May	15.1	.6	1.3	72.5	30.5	167.0	1.9	.8	4.3
June	13.1	.3	1.6	56.4	19.2	186.2	1.5	.5	4.8
July	12.1	-.2	1.4	24.8	-5.4	180.8	.6	.1	4.7
Aug.	11.6	-.4	1.0	12.3	-20.0	160.8	.3	.5	4.2
Sept.	11.7	-.2	.8	9.8	-22.0	138.8	.3	.6	3.6
Oct.	12.7	-.2	.6	11.4	-20.8	118.0	.3	.5	3.1
Nov.	13.1	-.3	.3	8.6	-23.3	94.7	.2	.6	2.5
Dec.	14.2	-.1	.2	14.3	-19.7	74.9	.4	.5	1.9
1955									
Jan.	14.5	1/	.2	30.7	-8.7	66.2	.8	.2	1.7
Feb.	13.6	1/	.3	39.5	-3.7	62.5	1.0	.1	1.6
Mar.	15.9	.2	.5	67.9	21.2	83.7	1.8	.5	2.2
Apr.	15.7	.7	1.2	80.0	42.2	125.8	2.1	1.1	3.3
May	15.5	1.0	2.1	84.7	45.1	170.9	2.2	1.2	4.4
June	13.8	.2	2.3	72.2	23.0	193.9	1.9	.6	5.0
July	12.8	1/	2.2	36.2	.8	194.7	.9	1/	5.1
Aug.	11.9	-.6	1.7	16.6	-14.8	179.9	.4	.4	4.7
Sept.	11.8	-.5	1.1	9.1	-24.6	155.4	.2	.6	4.0
Oct.	12.9	-.3	.8	7.2	-27.5	127.8	.2	.7	3.3
Nov.	13.0	-.5	.3	5.3	-26.5	101.4	.1	.7	2.6
Dec.	13.8	-.2	.1	4.2	-27.0	74.4	.1	.7	1.9
1956									
Jan.	14.3	.2	.3	8.2	-23.8	50.5	.2	.6	1.3
Feb.	14.3	1/	.3	32.9	-8.1	42.5	.9	.2	1.1
Mar.	16.0	1/	.3	62.8	18.9	61.4	1.6	.5	1.6
Apr.	15.5	.3	.6	77.6	33.2	94.6	2.0	.9	2.5
May	15.4	.6	1.2	94.2	45.5	140.0	2.4	1.2	3.6
June	13.8	.3	1.5	73.0	32.3	172.4	1.9	.8	4.5
July	13.2	-.2	1.3	36.3	5.1	177.4	.9	.1	4.6
Aug.	12.7	-.2	1.0	22.7	-9.5	167.9	.6	.2	4.4
Sept.	12.3	-.3	.7	12.8	-15.9	152.0	.3	.4	3.9
Oct.	13.4	-.1	.6	13.5	-20.5	131.5	.4	.5	3.4
Nov.	13.4	-.1	.5	9.4	-22.0	109.6	.2	.6	2.8
Dec.	14.6								

1/ Less than 0.5 million cases.

Table 3.- Eggs: Farm production, farm prices (including seasonal adjustment), retail prices, and per capita disappearance, monthly, January 1952 to date

Month	Production on farms	Civilian per capita disap- pearance (shell only)	Prices and related data				
			U. S. average price received by farmers	Seasonal adjust- ment factor 1/	U. S. average retail price, per dozen (AMS)	Farm- retail price spread 2/	
	Million cases	Eggs	Cents	Cents	Percent	Cents	Cents
1953							
January	14.4	33.0	45.8	47.7	96	64.9	17.7
February	13.9	28.6	42.0	48.3	87	59.8	16.5
March	16.2	32.2	44.7	51.4	87	68.5	17.5
April	15.6	30.3	45.5	52.3	87	64.0	17.1
May	14.9	29.4	45.9	51.6	89	64.0	16.7
June	13.1	27.3	45.7	50.2	91	65.1	18.0
July	12.1	27.8	47.7	48.2	99	67.8	18.7
August	11.3	26.5	50.2	46.9	107	69.9	18.2
September	11.0	25.8	51.4	45.5	113	73.1	20.2
October	12.2	28.0	53.2	45.5	117	74.7	19.8
November	12.6	29.1	49.7	42.5	117	68.6	17.4
December	13.7	31.3	48.5	42.9	113	66.5	16.5
1954							
January	14.2	30.9	46.3	48.7	95	65.1	17.4
February	13.9	27.8	45.7	52.5	87	64.3	17.2
March	16.4	30.8	38.7	44.5	87	56.7	16.8
April	15.6	30.0	35.0	40.2	87	53.8	17.8
May	15.1	29.6	33.1	37.6	88	52.2	18.1
June	13.1	26.4	33.0	36.7	90	50.9	16.9
July	12.1	27.0	34.5	34.8	99	54.6	19.1
August	11.6	26.7	37.4	35.0	107	58.0	19.5
September	11.7	26.4	33.8	29.9	113	56.0	21.2
October	12.7	28.9	32.4	27.9	116	56.1	22.7
November	13.1	30.1	33.9	29.5	115	54.6	19.7
December	14.2	32.0	32.7	29.2	112	51.5	17.8
1955							
January	14.5	30.8	32.2	34.3	94	50.1	16.9
February	13.6	27.5	39.5	45.9	86	57.8	17.1

Continued -

Table 3.- Eggs: Farm production, farm prices (including seasonal adjustment), retail prices, and per capita disappearance, monthly, January 1952 to date --Continued

Month	Production on farms	Civilian per capita disap- pearance (shell only)	Prices and related data				
			U. S. average price received by farmers	Seasonal adjust- ment factor	U. S. average retail price, per dozen (AMS)	Farm- retail price spread	
			As re- ported	Seasonally adjusted	1/ 2/	2/ 3/	
	Million cases	Eggs	Cents	Cents	Percent	Cents	Cents
1955-Con.							
March	15.9	30.5	39.7	45.1	88	59.0	18.1
April	15.7	28.6	35.9	40.3	89	53.3	16.3
May	15.5	28.0	33.8	37.6	90	51.6	16.8
June	13.8	26.4	33.8	37.1	91	51.5	16.7
July	12.8	26.8	35.2	35.2	100	55.0	18.7
August	11.9	27.0	39.4	36.5	108	61.4	20.8
September	11.8	26.8	43.8	39.5	111	64.4	19.3
October	12.9	28.9	42.9	37.6	114	64.1	19.9
November	13.0	29.5	43.4	38.1	114	62.4	17.7
December	13.8	30.8	47.1	42.4	111	66.2	17.7
1956							
January	14.3	30.4	46.6	49.6	94	65.5	17.5
February	14.3	28.4	40.2	46.7	86	58.0	16.6
March	16.0	30.5	39.6	44.5	89	58.1	17.3
April	15.5	28.1	38.5	42.8	90	56.5	16.8
May	15.4	27.2	37.5	41.2	91	55.6	17.0
June	13.8	25.4	36.3	39.5	92	54.0	16.6
July	13.2	27.2	36.5	36.9	99	55.9	18.3
August	12.7	26.7	36.9	34.2	108	56.8	18.8
September	12.3	26.7	38.6	34.8	111	58.9	19.1
October	13.4	3/28.6	38.1	33.7	113	59.5	20.3
November	13.4	3/28.9	37.2	32.9	113	57.5	19.2
December	16.5				113		

1/ For January 1957 and the following months through June 1957, the seasonal adjustment factors are respectively: 94, 88, 90, 91, 91, and 92.

2/ Includes allowance for breakage and loss.

3/ Preliminary.

Table 4.- Medium eggs: USDA weekly purchases and Midwest paying prices, with price comparisons, September-December 1956

Week ending	Purchases under USDA program	USDA paying prices, Midwest basis	Range of price		
			Quartermaster Corps paying prices for delivery, Midwest camps	Chicago, prices for mixed color, mediums <u>3/</u>	
			Base price for large eggs	Discount for mediums	
	Cases	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
September 28	19,650	33.00-39.50	42.75-45.42	12	32-32 $\frac{1}{2}$
October 5	57,816	37.25-39.50	42.25-44.00	10	30-33 $\frac{1}{2}$
12	44,470	39.00-39.50	43.20-44.57	10	28-32 $\frac{1}{2}$
19	42,836	39.00-39.50	42.11-44.99	10	27-29
26	60,982	39.00-39.50	39.96-44.74	10	27 $\frac{1}{2}$ -29
November 2	62,840	39.00-39.50	41.45-43.87	10	28-29
9	98,291	38.50-39.50	39.46-41.86	10	25 $\frac{1}{2}$ -26 $\frac{1}{2}$
16	46,818	34.50-37.00	40.14-43.11	10	28 $\frac{1}{2}$ -31
23	45,367	33.75-35.95	41.07-43.73	10	28 $\frac{1}{2}$ -29 $\frac{1}{2}$
30	27,450	33.50-34.50	38.93-42.71	10	30-33
December 7	77,064	30.74-32.50	34.47-37.41	7	28 $\frac{1}{2}$ -33 $\frac{1}{2}$
14	---	---	36.01-37.37	5	31-34 $\frac{1}{2}$
Total	583,584				

1/ Base grade: U. S. Procurement (80% A), #1 processed, at f.o.b. point.

2/ Base grade: U. S. Procurement (60% A), #2 natural, at delivery point.

3/ Wholesale grade A, (60% A).

Table 5.- Monthly egg production on farms,
December-July, 1943 to date

Year	Preceding December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	March- May total
	Mil. cases	Mil. cases	Mil. cases	Mil. cases	Mil. cases	Mil. cases	Mil. cases	Mil. cases	Mil. cases
1943	8.6	10.6	12.8	18.1	18.7	18.1	14.9	12.7	54.9
1944	9.3	12.6	15.2	19.2	19.7	18.9	15.3	13.1	57.8
1945	9.6	11.8	13.6	18.6	18.7	17.7	14.9	12.9	55.0
1946	9.9	12.2	14.2	18.9	18.8	17.4	14.1	11.9	55.1
1947	10.7	13.0	13.6	17.1	17.4	16.8	14.3	12.5	51.3
1948	10.6	12.2	13.2	16.7	17.0	16.2	13.6	12.1	49.9
1949	11.5	13.0	13.5	16.8	16.4	15.7	13.3	11.8	48.9
1950	13.1	14.7	14.6	17.3	16.9	16.3	13.8	12.4	50.5
1951	12.7	14.1	14.2	16.7	16.3	15.9	13.7	12.3	48.9
1952	13.1	14.5	15.1	16.8	16.1	15.5	13.0	11.6	48.4
1953	13.4	14.4	13.9	16.2	15.6	14.9	13.1	12.1	46.7
1954	13.7	14.2	13.9	16.4	15.6	15.1	13.1	12.1	47.1
1955	14.2	14.5	13.6	15.9	15.7	15.5	13.8	12.8	47.1
1956	13.8	14.3	14.3	16.0	15.5	15.4	13.8	13.2	46.9
1957	14.6								

Table 6.- Number of layers on farms, rate of egg production, and total egg output on farms, monthly data, August 1952 to date

Item and year	Unit	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July
(a) Monthly average data													
Average number of layers on hand	Mil.												
1952-53		277	298	325	343	350	346	336	324	311	296	283	273
1953-54		274	295	322	339	346	343	334	322	309	295	283	276
1954-55		283	307	331	342	345	338	328	319	306	294	283	276
1955-56		280	299	321	331	334	331	324	315	304	294	284	281
1956-57		288	306	323	332	336							
Eggs laid per 100 layers	Eggs												
1952-53		1,408	1,299	1,295	1,267	1,383	1,502	1,490	1,797	1,803	1,813	1,663	1,589
1953-54		1,481	1,341	1,357	1,339	1,424	1,484	1,498	1,837	1,819	1,847	1,672	1,579
1954-55		1,475	1,366	1,384	1,376	1,482	1,548	1,491	1,800	1,844	1,900	1,751	1,672
1955-56		1,536	1,418	1,444	1,412	1,492	1,561	1,586	1,832	1,839	1,891	1,745	1,693
1956-57		1,585	1,451	1,491	1,460	1,561							
Total monthly egg production	Mil. cs.												
1952-53		10.8	10.8	11.7	12.1	13.4	14.4	13.9	16.2	15.6	14.9	13.1	12.1
1953-54		11.3	11.0	12.2	12.6	13.7	14.2	13.9	16.4	15.6	15.1	13.1	12.1
1954-55		11.6	11.7	12.7	13.1	14.2	14.5	13.6	15.9	15.7	15.5	13.8	12.8
1955-56		11.9	11.8	12.9	13.0	13.8	14.3	14.3	16.0	15.5	15.4	13.8	13.2
1956-57		12.7	12.3	13.4	13.4	14.6							
(b) First-of-month data													
Number of layers on hand	Mil.												
1952-53		270	283	314	337	349	350	341	330	318	304	289	277
1953-54		270	279	311	334	346	347	339	328	316	301	289	277
1954-55		274	291	323	339	346	344	332	325	312	300	287	278
1955-56		274	285	314	328	335	332	329	319	309	299	288	280
1956-57		281	294	317	329	334	338						
Eggs laid per 100 layers	Eggs												
1952-53		46.6	44.2	42.4	41.2	43.3	46.0	50.9	55.6	60.3	59.8	57.9	53.0
1953-54		49.6	46.0	43.5	44.2	45.1	46.8	48.9	58.1	60.4	60.8	58.3	53.1
1954-55		48.6	46.5	44.5	44.8	46.9	48.7	51.1	55.4	60.7	62.3	60.3	56.6
1955-56		51.2	47.9	46.6	46.6	47.6	48.7	52.0	57.4	60.8	61.8	60.3	56.1
1956-57		53.2	49.0	47.8	48.5	48.9	51.8						
Daily rate of egg production	Mil. eggs												
1952-53		126	125	133	139	151	161	173	184	192	182	167	147
1953-54		134	128	135	148	156	162	166	191	191	183	169	147
1954-55		133	135	144	152	162	168	170	180	190	187	173	157
1955-56		140	137	146	153	159	162	171	183	188	185	174	157
1956-57		150	144	152	160	163	175						

Table 7.- Composition of flocks, October 1 and January 1 following, 1931 to date

Year	Hens				Pullets				Pullets not yet laying, Jan. 1 following				Total of listed categories for respective dates			
	Oct. 1		Jan. 1 following		Oct. 1		Laying, Jan. 1 following		Laying, Jan. 1 following		Laying, Jan. 1 following		Total of listed categories for respective dates			
	Number	As a percent- age of Jan. 1 pullets	Number	As a percent- age of Oct. 1 hens	Number	Total as a percent- age of chickens raised	Number	As a percent- age of laying and not yet laying	Number	As a percent- age of chickens, Oct. 1	Number	As a percent- age of "other" young chickens"	Number	As a percent- age of Oct. 1 following		
															Mil.	Pct.
1931	195	80	156	80	84	156	34	185	77	122	44	36	557	385		
1932	189	82	154	81	88	167	35	192	76	133	45	34	576	391		
1933	184	78	147	80	87	167	34	196	77	130	42	32	568	385		
1934	180	76	139	77	79	149	36	172	75	102	40	39	511	351		
1935	171	81	136	80	88	154	37	186	77	104	40	38	517	362		
1936	164	73	130	79	101	110	38	210	77	119	39	33	554	379		
1937	171	69	138	81	89	159	41	173	70	85	42	49	504	353		
1938	158	73	134	85	100	175	42	194	70	102	48	47	536	376		
1939	167	69	139	83	101	186	41	202	70	111	51	46	565	392		
1940	158	62	141	89	112	180	46	192	66	98	48	49	548	381		
1941	166	69	150	90	123	205	44	221	67	113	57	50	607	428		
1942	183	66	170	93	137	227	43	255	70	115	63	55	661	488		
1943	228	71	174	76	124	269	39	282	72	151	67	44	772	523		
1944	229	65	172	75	134	212	42	254	73	100	47	47	676	473		
1945	214	71	151	71	128	243	42	269	73	137	53	39	722	473		
1946	202	63	150	74	126	199	44	244	75	87	37	43	614	431		
1947	198	70	140	71	131	195	45	243	75	86	35	41	610	418		
1948	193	69	141	73	125	176	49	227	75	70	31	44	564	399		
1949	184	71	137	74	140	185	46	255	78	75	32	43	583	424		
1950	189	66	141	75	141	142	46	229	81	75	29	39	547	399		
1951	179	69	136	76	143	144	46	231	80	74	30	41	541	397		
1952	172	66	135	79	142	117	46	215	83	59	23	39	490	373		
1953	156	66	116	74	154	112	49	231	87	58	24	41	480	371		
1954	154	60	111	72	168	104	50	233	85	42	25	59	469	369		
1955 2/	166	65	122	73	148	94	52	211	87	36	27	77	444	360		
1956 2/	150	63	150	63	167	92	55	259	30	30			439			

1/ For January 1, these are "potential layers"; for October 1, these differ from potential layers by the inclusion of "other young chickens."

Table 8.- Hens and pullets as percentages of total numbers of October 1 and January 1 layers, October 1945 to date

Year	October 1			January 1 following		
	Hens	Pullets of laying age	Total	Hens	Pullets of laying age	Total
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
1945	63	37	100	36	64	100
1946	62	38	100	38	62	100
1947	60	40	100	37	63	100
1948	61	39	100	38	62	100
1949	57	43	100	35	65	100
1950	57	43	100	38	62	100
1951	56	44	100	37	63	100
1952	55	45	100	39	61	100
1953	50	50	100	33	67	100
1954	48	52	100	32	68	100
1955	53	47	100	37	63	100
1956	47	53	100			

Table 9.- Factors indicative of culling rates, 1940 to date

Year	Pullets on hand Jan. 1, as a percentage of chickens raised previous year	Hens on hand as a percentage of potential layers Oct. 1 following	Average number of layers on hand Oct. 1-Sept. 30, as a percentage of Jan. 1 number of potential layers	Hens on hand Jan. 1 following, as a percentage of Oct. 1 hens
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1940	36	40	36	89
1941	38	44	39	90
1942	37	43	40	93
1943	38	47	36	76
1944	35	44	33	75
1945	36	45	32	71
1946	36	43	32	74
1947	38	46	32	71
1948	39	46	34	73
1949	42	46	34	74
1950	41	45	33	75
1951	42	45	34	76
1952	42	43	34	79
1953	42	42	31	74
1954	47	42	30	72
1955	48	45	33	73
1956	52	42		

Table 10.- Measures of changes in the volume of fresh egg supply,
selected months, and United States average price
received by farmers, 1954 to date

Year	Unit	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.
(a) Index of production of eggs on farms, first day of month, (June 1, 1954=100)									
1954-55		100	87	79	80	85	90	96	99
1955-56		103	93	83	81	87	91	95	96
1956-57		103	93	89	86	90	95	97	104
(b) Average weekly receipts of shell eggs in 4 cities									
1954-55	Thou. cases	248	186	179	190	191	192	226	234
1955-56	Thou. cases	221	199	172	182	193	196	202	264
1956-57	Thou. cases	253	187	190	183	200	203	208	
(c) Egg receipts, first full week of month, at Iowa assembling plants, as a percentage of preceding week									
1954-55	Pct.	112	83	102	92	96	100	103	123
1955-56	Pct.	103	87	86	96	95	105	113	99
1956-57	Pct.	114	90	94	96	107	100	99	
(d) Mid-month United States average price received by farmers, per dozen									
1954-55	Ct.	33.0	34.5	37.4	33.8	32.4	33.9	32.7	32.2
1955-56	Ct.	33.8	35.2	39.4	43.8	42.9	43.4	47.1	46.6
1956-57	Ct.	36.3	36.5	36.9	38.6	38.1	37.2	37.1	

Table 11.- Monthly hatchings of replacement-type chickens, United States, available data, 1954 to date, and replacement-type eggs in incubators, December 1956, and chickens raised, 1954 to date

Item	1954	1955	1956
	<u>Million</u>	<u>Million</u>	<u>Million</u>
Hatchings			
January		32.9	40.7
February		71.2	86.0
March	<u>1</u> /201.5	148.8	153.8
April	<u>1</u> /193.9	163.9	165.3
May	<u>1</u> /111.5	107.9	113.1
June	<u>1</u> / 33.9	32.7	35.2
July		14.9	15.8
August		12.6	14.5
September		14.1	15.3
October		16.6	17.3
November		15.5	15.7
December		17.5	<u>2</u> /(88)
Total, calendar year		648.6	
Total, 12 months ending July of given year			685.3
Chickens raised, calendar year	540.0	461.9	471.9

1/ Derived.

2/ Eggs in incubators first of month as a percentage of preceding year.

Table 12.- Pullets saved and related data, available data,
selected years, 1945 to date

Item	Unit	1945	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Replacement-type chicks hatched, 12 mos. beginning preceding Sept.	Mil.								688.5
Chickens raised	Mil.	890.4	619.8	622.9	561.0	547.5	539.9	461.9	471.9
Percentage composition of farmers' purchases of replacement type chicks									
a. Straight run	Pct.	77	63	62	58	53	51	52	1/52
b. Sexed pullets	Pct.	18	32	33	37	42	43	42	1/43
c. Sexed cockerels	Pct.	5	5	5	5	5	6	6	1/5
d. Computed percentage of pullets in total purchases	Pct.	56.5	63.5	64.0	66.0	68.5	68.5	68.0	69.0
Pullets among chickens raised (computed)	Mil.	503.1	393.6	398.7	370.3	375.0	369.8	314.1	1/325.6
Number of young birds on hand Oct. 1									
Laying pullets	Mil.	128.1	140.7	143.4	142.4	154.5	168.3	147.8	166.6
Pullets not yet laying	Mil.	242.5	142.2	144.5	116.6	111.8	104.3	94.3	92.2
Pullets laying and not yet laying	Mil.	370.6	282.9	287.9	259.1	266.3	272.6	242.1	258.8
Other young chickens	Mil.	137.3	75.5	73.5	58.7	57.6	41.8	35.6	29.9
Pullets and young chickens	Mil.	507.9	358.4	361.5	317.7	323.9	314.5	277.7	288.6
Number of young birds on hand Jan. 1 following									
Laying pullets	Mil.	254.5	254.6	228.7	231.4	215.0	231.3	232.7	210.9
Pullets not yet laying	Mil.	47.0	32.2	29.4	30.0	22.6	23.8	24.5	27.3
All pullets	Mil.	201.5	286.8	258.2	261.4	237.6	255.1	257.2	238.2
Oct. 1 pullets (laying and not laying) as a percentage of:									
Replacement-type chicks hatched	Pct.								38
Chickens raised	Pct.	42	46	46	46	49	50	52	55
All pullets Jan. 1 following as a percentage of:									
Replacement-type chicks hatched	Pct.								35
Chickens raised	Pct.	23	46	41	47	43	47	56	50

1/ Based on farmers' intended composition of chick purchases.

Table 13.- Weekly hatchings of replacement-type (light-breed) chicks, California, 1953 to date, and weekly egg settings, 1956

Week ending 1/	Hatchings			Egg settings, 1956	Hatchings, 1956
	1953	1954	1955		
	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.
Jan. 7	891	1,247	1,015	1,351	1,116
14	946	1,190	959	1,556	1,123
21	962	1,179	916	1,472	1,092
28	975	1,289	902	1,596	1,044
Feb. 4	1,157	1,494	1,113	1,427	1,194
11	1,228	1,419	1,120	1,755	1,132
18	1,288	1,538	1,252	1,707	1,244
25	1,412	1,605	1,333	1,828	1,113
Mar. 3	1,601	1,713	1,550	1,611	1,316
10	1,553	1,742	1,434	1,737	1,335
17	1,512	1,694	1,578	1,861	1,371
24	1,421	1,691	1,307	1,623	1,212
31	1,300	1,690	1,391	1,675	1,295
Apr. 7	1,336	1,526	1,256	1,468	1,405
14	1,177	1,567	1,333	1,483	1,215
21	1,155	1,345	1,243	1,360	1,236
28	974	1,124	1,042	1,256	1,064
May 5	859	1,061	1,085	1,190	1,099
12	813	985	820	1,247	1,002
19	732	885	832	1,258	928
26	686	722	805	1,201	915
June 2	691	769	869	1,000	921
9	690	675	842	1,078	920
16	678	705	815	1,062	875
23	569	573	676	1,020	704
30	542	693	802	986	778
July 7	586	637	657	998	764
14	564	672	747	1,081	731
21	550	601	609	1,009	720
28	521	648	704	928	715
Aug. 4	498	605	681	980	796
11	511	612	647	1,114	747
18	534	651	666	1,049	657
25	574	647	660	1,138	666
Sept. 1	593	659	644	1,030	808
8	620	637	676	1,033	724
15	626	701	776	1,068	791
22	641	598	751	981	718
29	617	633	748	1,176	713
Oct. 6	593	612	777	1,038	772
13	625	578	839	934	704
20	629	534	861	942	837
27	625	511	871	990	728
Nov. 3	707	527	822	950	691
10	720	563	697	1,063	696
17	713	538	837	1,079	736
24	667	463	756	1,070	712
Dec. 1	802	620	961	1,152	805
8	831	621	895	1,096	818
15	890	709	854	1,182	802
22	735	489	743	1,463	868
29	880	837	909		
Total	44,000	48,024	48,078		

1/ Dates are for 1956. Comparable weeks for other years.

Table 14.- Egg-feed price ratio, farmers' intentions to raise chickens, chickens raised, and pullets on farms, United States, 1925 to date

Year	Percentage of preceding year						
	Egg-feed price ratio (weighted average) 1/			Pullets on farms, January 1 following			
	Chickens raised			Farmers' intentions to raise chickens			
	Pullets on farms, January 1 following			Egg-feed price ratio (weighted average) 1/			
	Lb.	Mil.	Mil.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
1925	12.9	679				103	
1926	13.5	718			105	106	
1927	13.4	750			99	104	
1928	12.2	700			91	93	
1929	13.1	751	253		107	107	
1930	13.8	777	244		105	103	96
1931	10.6	709	230		77	91	94
1932	11.6	736	237		109	104	103
1933	14.3	750	238		123	102	100
1934	10.9	644	212		76	86	89
1935	11.4	658	226		105	102	107
1936	13.1	715	249		115	109	110
1937	9.4	601	215		72	84	86
1938	11.4	651	242	108	121	108	113
1939	12.6	697	254	108	111	107	105
1940	10.4	634	240	96	83	91	94
1941	11.5	745	278	109	111	118	116
1942	13.2	844	319	112	115	113	115
1943	14.7	1,001	350	116	111	119	110
1944	11.2	832	301	83	76	83	86
1945	12.8	890	322	96	114	107	107
1946	11.9	738	281	86	93	83	87
1947	11.3	719	278	94	85	97	99
1948	9.8	615	258	80	87	86	93
1949	12.7	705	287	107	130	115	111
1950	9.6	620	258	88	76	77	90
1951	11.4	623	261	96	119	101	101
1952	9.1	561	238	90	80	90	91
1953	11.3	548	255	96	124	98	107
1954	10.9	540	257	100	96	99	101
1955 2/	9.7	462	238	82	89	86	93
1956 2/	12.1 (13.6)	2/472		103	125 (88)	102	
1957 3/	(10.4)				(76)		

1/ Weights are as follows: Preceding November, 1; preceding December, 2; January, 3; February, 4; March, 5; April, 3; May, 1. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ For 1957, November and December; comparable 1956 in parentheses.

Table 15.- Broiler chick placements related to 1955 and 1956 production, 22 important States, 2 areas, etc.

State	Placements related to 1955 production:-				Placements as a percentage of production		Placements related to 1956 production			
	Last 10 weeks of 1954	First 42 weeks of 1955	Total	1955 production	Percent	Last 10 weeks of 1955	First 42 weeks of 1956	Total	Thousands	Thousands
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Percent	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
Maine	5,667	28,123	33,790	33,438	101	12,845	36,022	48,867		
Connecticut	4,162	22,137	26,299	25,852	102	17,021	25,147	42,168		
Pennsylvania	4,416	26,722	31,138	30,318	103	9,612	31,693	41,305		
Indiana	5,427	29,399	34,826	32,368	108	5,492	32,861	38,353		
Illinois	1,420	7,803	9,223	8,691	106	13,987	7,717	21,704		
Missouri	3,742	23,371	27,113	25,767	105	2,004	27,353	29,357		
Delaware	9,990	65,278	75,268	69,820	108	35,257	74,971	110,228		
Maryland	9,653	53,142	62,795	58,367	108	1,591	58,005	59,596		
Virginia	8,462	50,710	59,172	55,179	107	7,339	53,731	61,070		
W. Virginia	3,114	20,644	23,758	21,873	109	2,916	21,934	24,850		
N. Carolina	8,744	55,215	63,959	59,516	107	7,399	65,540	72,939		
S. Carolina	1,648	8,957	10,605	10,053	105	11,431	12,008	23,439		
Georgia	26,882	158,612	185,494	177,642	104	8,584	194,794	203,378		
Florida	1,593	8,098	9,691	9,389	103	5,145	10,486	15,631		
Alabama	8,743	50,950	59,693	57,764	103	13,462	70,900	84,362		
Mississippi	6,138	33,657	39,795	37,486	106	1,180	47,109	48,289		
Arkansas	12,042	69,409	81,451	76,954	106	6,180	86,514	92,694		
Louisiana	1,819	10,368	12,187	11,666	104	2,199	13,452	15,651		
Texas	12,208	69,136	81,344	79,687	102	17,714	84,791	102,505		
Washington	1,588	8,679	10,267	9,782	105	10,915	10,030	20,945		
Oregon	901	5,616	6,517	6,133	106	1,727	7,447	9,174		
California	8,529	43,430	51,959	48,516	107	4,463	46,304	50,767		
Total, 22 States	146,888	849,456	996,344	946,261	105	198,463	1,018,809	1,217,272		
Total, U. S.				1,078,264						
Del-Mar-Va.	20,769	124,845	145,614			26,576	138,299	164,875		
Shenandoah Valley	6,778	43,533	50,311			9,170	44,407	53,577		

Table 16.- Monthly prices and supply of broilers, and red meat supply, 1953 to date

Year	Unit	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Average (weight- ed) or total
(a) U. S. average mid-month broiler price, per lb.														
1953	Ct.	27.9	27.7	28.1	28.0	27.2	26.2	28.3	27.9	27.1	26.7	26.0	23.2	27.1
1954	Ct.	24.2	22.6	23.5	24.3	23.7	24.4	25.4	24.9	23.0	21.0	20.1	19.2	23.1
1955	Ct.	24.4	25.4	29.7	28.4	27.0	27.2	26.5	26.9	25.2	22.0	21.2	19.4	25.2
1956	Ct.	20.3	21.4	21.9	20.5	21.1	19.9	21.7	19.6	18.3	17.6	17.1	16.9	1/19.7
(b) Monthly hatchings of broiler chicks, 3 months previous (except total which is U. S. broiler production)														
1954	Mil.						2/106.8	2/110.3	2/108.4	2/95.3				1,047.8
1955	Mil.			81.2	92.1	105.4	109.7	115.9	111.8	111.0	98.8	86.9		1,078.3
1956	Mil.	93.4	95.9	102.7	109.2	112.2	129.9	132.5	140.7	135.4	125.7	119.8	104.1	
1957	Mil.	103.5	104.9											
(c) Monthly commercial production of red meats														
1953	Mil.													
1954	lb.	2,113	1,745	1,897	1,863	1,739	1,821	1,823	1,786	1,965	2,172	2,116	2,152	23,192
1954	Mil.													
1955	lb.	2,062	1,735	2,020	1,818	1,792	1,912	1,876	1,930	2,071	2,120	2,199	2,270	23,805
1955	Mil.													
1956	lb.	2,192	1,854	2,176	1,929	1,964	2,001	1,815	2,158	2,227	2,324	2,398	2,433	25,471
1956	Mil.													
1956	lb.	2,477	2,184	2,265	2,106	2,148	2,059	2,079	2,135	2,069	2,512	2,411		

1/ Simple average
2/ Derived.

Table 17.- Turkey poults: Monthly hatchings in commercial hatcheries, available data, September 1953 to date, and calendar year totals of turkeys raised

Month	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57
	<u>Mil.</u>	<u>Mil.</u>	<u>Mil.</u>	<u>Mil.</u>
(a) All turkeys				
Hatchings				
September	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.7
October	.4	.7	.5	.7
November	.7	1.2	.9	1.4
December	1.7	2.2	1.9	
January	3.0	2.6	2.8	
February	5.0	3.8	5.6	
March	11.2	8.9	12.1	
April	16.2	14.6	17.3	
May	16.7	17.2	19.2	
June	10.8	11.6	13.1	
July	3.9	4.3	5.2	
August	1.4	1.5	1.8	
Raised in calendar year beginning Jan.	67.7	65.6	2/76.3	
(b) Light-breed turkeys				
Hatchings				
September	.4	.7	.4	.4
October	.4	.7	.3	.3
November	.7	1.0	.5	.7
December	1.3	1.7	.9	
January	1.8	1.4	.9	
February	1.7	1.1	.8	
March	1.8	1.1	1.0	
April	2.3	1.8	1.5	
May	3.3	2.4	2.3	
June	3.0	2.6	2.4	
July	2.4	2.2	2.2	
August	1.3	1.2	1.1	
Raised in calendar year beginning Jan.	19.2	16.8	2/13.6	
(c) All heavy-breed turkeys				
Hatchings				
September	1/	1/	.1	.3
October	1/	.1	.2	.4
November	.1	.2	.4	.8
December	.3	.5	1.0	
January	1.2	1.2	1.9	
February	3.4	2.7	4.8	
March	9.4	7.8	11.1	

Continued -

Table 17.- Turkey poults: Monthly hatchings in commercial hatcheries, available data, September 1953 to date, and calendar year totals of turkeys raised --Continued

Month	1953-54	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57
	<u>Mil.</u>	<u>Mil.</u>	<u>Mil.</u>	<u>Mil.</u>
(c) All heavy-breed turkeys				
Hatchings--continued.				
April	13.9	12.8	15.7	
May	13.4	14.8	16.9	
June	7.7	9.0	10.7	
July	1.4	2.1	3.0	
August	.1	.3	.7	
Raised in calendar year beginning Jan.	48.5	48.8	2/62.8	
(d) Light-feathered heavy-breed turkeys				
Hatchings				
September				.3
October				.4
November				.5
December				
January			.9	
February			1.1	
March			1.9	
April			2.9	
May			3.5	
June			2.9	
July			1.6	
August			.6	
Raised in calendar year beginning Jan.			2/16.7	
(e) Other heavy-breed turkeys				
Hatchings				
September				<u>1/</u>
October				<u>1/</u>
November				.2
December				
January			1.0	
February			3.7	
March			9.2	
April			12.9	
May			13.3	
June			7.8	
July			1.4	
August			<u>1/</u>	
Raised in calendar year beginning Jan.			2/46.1	

1/ Less than 0.05. 2/ Preliminary.

Table 18.- Turkey prices, per pound: Selected series, October 1952 to date

Season	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
1952-53	32.9	33.7	34.6	33.6	33.3	33.6	33.3	32.5	31.7	32.3	32.7	32.4
1953-54	33.3	33.9	34.5	33.2	33.9	33.6	33.3	31.0	31.3	28.6	27.8	27.6
1954-55	27.0	28.5	29.6	27.4	29.5	30.4	29.7	28.9	29.4	29.6	29.5	31.0
1955-56	31.2	29.8	30.5	31.0	31.4	32.1	30.9	30.8	29.8	28.9	28.7	27.0
1956-57	25.8	26.0	27.7	27.7	27.7	27.7	27.7	27.7	27.7	27.7	27.7	27.7
1952-53	28-29	29-30	29-30	28-29	28-29	28-29	28-29	28-29	28-29	28-29	28-29	28-29
1953-54	28-29	28-29	28-29	28-29	28-29	28-29	28-29	28-29	28-29	28-29	28-29	28-29
1954-55	22-22½	23-24	23-24	21½-23	21½-23	21½-23	21½-23	21½-23	21½-23	21½-23	21½-23	21½-23
1955-56	29-30	26-27	26-27	26-27	26-27	26-27	26-27	26-27	26-27	26-27	26-27	26-27
1956-57	25-25½	23-24½	23-24½	23-24½	23-24½	23-24½	23-24½	23-24½	23-24½	23-24½	23-24½	23-24½
1952-53	32-32½	33	33½-34	33½-34	33½-34	33½-34	33½-34	33½-34	33½-34	33½-34	33½-34	33½-34
1953-54	33	35-35½	36-37½	36-37½	36-37½	36-37½	36-37½	36-37½	36-37½	36-37½	36-37½	36-37½
1954-55	28	31-32	31½-32	31½-32	31½-32	31½-32	31½-32	31½-32	31½-32	31½-32	31½-32	31½-32
1955-56	34½-35	33	31½-32½	31½-32½	31½-32½	31½-32½	31½-32½	31½-32½	31½-32½	31½-32½	31½-32½	31½-32½
1956-57	27-27½	25½-26	25½-26	25½-26	25½-26	25½-26	25½-26	25½-26	25½-26	25½-26	25½-26	25½-26
1952-53	58-60	54-58	53-57	53-55	55-56½	53-55	52-55	56-58	56-60	55-59	56-59	55-57
1953-54	55-59	53-56	51½-54	51-54	51½-54	51½-54	49½-53½	49-53½	49-53½	46½-49	47-49	47-49
1954-55	46½-49	44-48	43½-46	43-45	44-48	44½-48	46-49	47½-50½	48½-52½	42½-53	51-54	55½-57
1955-56	50½-54	48-50	47½-48½	53-54	54-55	54-55	57½-58	61½-62	64-65	65½-66	65½-66	60-61
1956-57	50-52	43-44½	43-44½	47½-49	47½-49	47½-49	47½-49	47½-49	47½-49	47½-49	47½-49	47½-49
1952-53	57-59	56-59	56-59	56-59	56-59	56-59	56-59	56-59	56-59	56-59	56-59	56-59
1953-54	56-57	58-60	69-60½	60-61½	60-61½	60-61½	59½-61½	62-64	61-64	59-61	56-59	55-57
1954-55	47-49	49½-51	51-53	48-51	48-51	48-51	48-51	51½-53½	51½-53½	51-53	48-49½	49½-51
1955-56	51-52½	52-54	50½-52	50-51	50-51	49½-51	50-51½	53½-54	52½-53½	47-48½	46-47	43½-44½
1956-57	44-44½	44-45	44½-45½	42-43	42-43	42-43	42-43	42-43	42-43	42-43	42-43	42-43
1952-53	36-37	37-38	37-38	42	40½	42-43	42-43	38	35	33	32-33	33
1953-54	33-33½	36½	37½	37	35	37	33	30	30-31	27-29½	26-26½	27½-28
1954-55	29	31-32	32	28	30	30	30	31	31	30½-31	30-30½	30-30½
1955-56	30½-31	30-31½	28-28½	29½	30	30	30-31	29-30	29	26½-27	26½	25-26
1956-57	25	25½-26	26-27	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26
1952-53	47½-48	47½-48	49-50	53½-54	52½-53	52½-53	51-52	48-49	43-44½	43-44	41½-42	42½-43
1953-54	41½-42	44-45	46½-47	44½-45	44½-45	44½-45	42½-43	38½-39	36-37	36½-37	33½-34	35½-36
1954-55	36½-37	39½-39	39-40	37-38	36½-37	36½-37	39-40	38½-39	38½-39	39½-40	37-38	38-38½
1955-56	38½-39	38-39	38½-39	38-39	38-39	38-39	40-41	36-37	33½-34	33-35	34½-35	34½-35
1956-57	32½-33	33-34	36-37	37-38	37-38	37-38	37-38	37-38	37-38	37-38	37-38	37-38
1952-53	30-30½	29-31½	30-31	20-23	20-23	20-23	20-23	20-22	28-30	28	27	29-31
1953-54	24-24½	26-27	27-28	27-28	27-28	27-28	27-28	27-28	27-28	27-28	27-28	25-25½
1954-55	30	24-25	24-25	24-25	24-25	24-25	24-25	24-25	24-25	24-25	24-25	24-25
1955-56	24-25	23-23½	23-23½	23-23½	23-23½	23-23½	23-23½	23-23½	23-23½	23-23½	23-23½	23-23½
1956-57	34½-35½	38-38½	35-35½	32-34	32-34	32-34	32-34	28-28½	27½-28	28	32-33	33-34
1953-54	29-30	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31
1954-55	27½-28	27½-28	27½-28	27½-28	27½-28	27½-28	27½-28	27½-28	27½-28	27½-28	27½-28	26-26½
1955-56	27½-28	27½-28	27½-28	27½-28	27½-28	27½-28	27½-28	27½-28	27½-28	27½-28	27½-28	27½-28
1956-57	27½-28	27½-28	27½-28	27½-28	27½-28	27½-28	27½-28	27½-28	27½-28	27½-28	27½-28	27½-28

1/ Or first following day when quotation is available.

Table 19.- Turkeys: USDA purchases, 1956

Week ending	Amount purchased		Range of paying prices during the week, per pound
	For the week	Cumulative	
	<u>Thou. lb.</u>	<u>Thou. lb.</u>	<u>Ct.</u>
September 28	360	360	37.00-37.50
October 5	1,737	2,097	37.23-39.50
12	3,724	5,821	37.32-39.50
19	4,519	10,340	37.32-39.50
26	6,148	16,488	37.32-39.50
November 2	4,818	21,306	37.32-39.50
9	3,366	24,672	37.3125-39.50
16	2,082	26,754	37.3125-39.50
23	360	27,114	38.50-39.50
30	0	<u>1/27,114</u>	---

1/ Contracts for 1,748 thousand pounds, included in this total, were cancelled at the beginning of December.

Table 20.- Farmers' share of the consumers' dollar by commodity groups, 1955 to date

(Including data for cover chart)

Period	Farmers' share							
	Bakery and cereal products	Fruits and vegetables	Fats and oils	Dairy products	Meat products	Poultry and eggs	All foods	
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	
1955								
Jan.-Mar.	22	30	31	46	58	67	42	
Apr.-June	21	31	32	45	56	66	42	
July-Sept.	20	28	29	46	53	65	40	
Oct.-Dec.	20	28	29	46	48	64	39	
Average, 12 mos.	21	29	30	46	54	66	41	
1956								
Jan.-Mar.	20	30	33	46	48	65	41	
Apr.-June	21	32	36	46	53	63	41	
July-Sept.	20	30	31	46	56	61	41	
Average, 9 mos.	20	31	33	46	52	63	41	

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